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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 11 1992

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Streamlining the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility
Study for CERCLA Municipal LandfillsFROM: Henry L. Longest II, Director
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response *H. Longest*

TO: Addressees

Purpose

This memorandum announces a pilot project designed to streamline the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) process for CERCLA municipal landfill sites. It describes the goals of the pilot project, and identifies project participants and candidate sites. We consider the project the first step toward accelerating Superfund cleanups using a presumptive remedy-based approach, and I ask for the Regions' full support in its implementation.

Background

EPA issued a reference manual entitled "Conducting Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies for CERCLA Municipal Landfill Sites" (hereafter referred to as "the manual") in February 1991. The manual identifies components of the RI/FS process that can be streamlined for municipal landfill sites based on program experience that the universe of remedial alternatives appropriate for these sites is limited. Specifically, EPA anticipates that site characterization, the baseline risk assessment, and the number of alternatives considered may be streamlined at each municipal landfill site.

Although the manual has been available for over a year, we find that it is not being applied routinely to all municipal landfill RI/FS's. The streamlining methods identified in the manual have been demonstrated to save both time and money at a number of these sites. My charge to you is to ensure that the methods identified in the manual are implemented at all CERCLA municipal landfills, beginning with those RI/FS starts scheduled during this fiscal year. The pilot project is designed to help you meet this goal.

Objective

The initial objective of the municipal landfill pilot project is to provide those Regions with a significant number of upcoming municipal landfill RI/FS starts with the expertise necessary to implement the manual. The project's long-term goal is for each Region to possess the expertise they need to implement the manual at all future RI/FS starts.

Implementation

The Hazardous Site Control Division (HSCD) of OERR identified Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) who have used the manual successfully to streamline the RI/FS for municipal landfill sites. These RPMs, together with an expert on landfill construction, comprise a team that will provide site-specific assistance to RPMs on scoping a streamlined RI/FS. At this time, team members include Andrea McLaughlin, team coordinator, Headquarters; Ed Hathaway, RPM, Region 1; Ken Skahn, landfill construction expert, Headquarters; and Brian Ullensvang, RPM, Region 9.

HSCD kicked off the new project on March 18, 1992, when the team worked with Mary Beth Novy, RPM, Region 5, to scope the RI/FS for the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill in Michigan. The team visited the site on the first day, and then participated in a full day of scoping meetings. A second site visit was conducted on April 15-16, when the team met with Terry Tanner (RPM, Region 4) to scope the RI/FS for Lexington County Landfill, South Carolina. A third visit is scheduled for May 14-15, when the team will meet with Ed Hathaway (RPM, Region 1) to scope the RI/FS for the BFI/Rockingham Landfill, Vermont.

While the pilot project is well on its way to meeting the stated short-term objective, i.e., to provide site-specific assistance to Regions with a significant number of upcoming municipal landfill RI/FS starts, we believe that, to be fully successful, other Regions with upcoming municipal landfill RI/FS starts should also participate. To date, however, we have been unsuccessful in identifying additional candidate sites in these Regions with RI/FS starts in the remainder of FY 92 or later. Please assist us in identifying candidate municipal landfill sites in the other six Regions for participation in the project. (We are aware of the Region 6 "Lightning ROD" municipal landfill pilot project.)

Two additional candidate sites have been identified: Beulah Landfill, Florida (Tony Best, RPM, Region 4), and Sparta Landfill, Michigan (Karla Johnson, RPM, Region 5). Candidate sites identified in response to this memo will likely be substituted for these sites to ensure broader involvement.

The project's long-term objective is for each Region to possess the expertise they need to implement the manual at their municipal landfill sites. This goal will be achieved partially through the participation of those RPMs who have agreed to work with the team at their sites. Upon completion of the scoping meeting, these RPMs will possess a working knowledge of the manual, and will be able to provide the necessary expertise to implement the manual at future sites in their Regions. To date, RPMs from Regions 1, 4, 5, and 9 have agreed to fulfill this role.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite Regions 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 10 to participate in the project, and ask that you identify one or two interested RPMs to attend and observe one of the two-day site visits. While a significant number of municipal landfill RI/FS starts may not occur in these Regions, it is important for these Regions to know and understand the streamlining methods identified in the manual. In addition, those individuals who participate will be in a position to assist in streamlining any future municipal landfill RI/FS's, should they occur. Regional travel is being funded by the Superfund Revitalization Team.

Potential products to be developed by the project team include an analysis of time and money saved as a result of streamlining the RI/FS for the candidate sites, and a fact-sheet on lessons learned to assist RPMs in scoping upcoming municipal landfill RI/FS's.

Finally, attached for your information is a bulletin developed to report Superfund's progress under the presumptive remedies initiative. This bulletin briefly explains the rationale for using presumptive remedies, and describes the municipal landfill pilot project.

Contact

Please provide the information requested to Andrea McLaughlin, Hazardous Site Control Division, FTS 678-8365 or 703-308-8365 by May 4, 1992.

Addressees: Waste Management Division Director
 Regions I, IV, V, VII, VIII, IX
 Emergency and Remedial Response Division Director
 Region II
 Hazardous Waste Management Division Director
 Regions III, VI
 Hazardous Waste Division Director, Region X

cc: Rich Guimond
 Tim Fields
 Bruce Diamond
 Ed Hathaway, Region 1
 Brian Ullensvang, Region 9
 ~~Mary~~ Beth Novy, Region 5
 Terry Tanner, Region 4
 Karla Johnson, Region 5
 Tony Best, Region 4

Attachment



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of
Solid Waste and
Emergency Response

Publication 9203.1-021
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Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Bulletin

Presumptive Remedies for Municipal Landfill Sites

- Superfund Revitalization Activity
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
Hazardous Site Control Division OS-220W

Intermittent Bulletin
Volume 1 Number 1

Since Superfund's inception in 1980, the removal and remedial programs have found that certain categories of sites have similar characteristics, such as the types of contaminants present, past industrial use, or the environmental media that are affected. Based on a wealth of information acquired from evaluating and cleaning up these sites, Superfund is undertaking an initiative to develop **presumptive remedies** that are appropriate for specific types of sites, contaminants, or both. This initiative is part of a larger program, known as the **Superfund Accelerated**

Cleanup Model (SACM), which is designed to speed all aspects of the Superfund clean-up process.

The objective of the presumptive remedies initiative is to use clean-up techniques shown to be effective in the past at similar sites in the future. The use of presumptive remedies will streamline removal actions, site studies, and clean-up actions, thereby improving consistency, reducing costs, and increasing the speed with which hazardous waste sites are remediated.

The Municipal Landfill Pilot Project

Superfund kicked off a new pilot project designed to expedite the site investigation and remedy selection process for municipal landfills with a visit to Region V on March 18-20, 1992. Superfund anticipates that remedy selection may be streamlined for municipal landfills because they typically share similar characteristics and because containment and ground water cleanup frequently is the appropriate remedy for these sites.

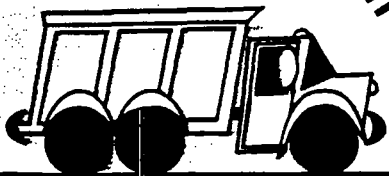
An existing EPA manual, *Conducting Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies for CERCLA Municipal Landfill Sites*, outlines

streamlining techniques for municipal landfills. The goal of the initiative is to aid the Regions in implementing the manual, so that site characterization, the baseline risk assessment, and the number of alternatives considered will be streamlined at every municipal landfill site.

Albion Sheridan Township landfill, a municipal landfill in Michigan, was the first site to participate in the pilot project. A team of Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) from several Regions and experts on landfill construction met with the site RPM in Grand Rapids, Michigan to develop the site strategy. As a result of the meeting, site characterization will be conducted in a phased approach, with

criteria established for when additional sampling will occur. Streamlining of the baseline risk assessment will depend upon data obtained in the first phase of sampling.

Superfund Accelerated Clean-up



Faster...Cleaner...Safer

Four other Superfund municipal landfill sites have been identified as candidates for participation in the project: Lexington County Landfill, Lexington County, South Carolina (Region IV); BFI/Rockingham, Rockingham, Vermont (Region I); Sparta Landfill, Sparta Township, Michigan (Region V); and Beulah Landfill, Pensacola, Florida (Region IV).

The review team anticipates meeting with the RPMs for these sites during April, May, and June 1992.

RPMs who participate in the project and implement the municipal landfill manual at their sites will become members of the team and will be available to assist other RPMs in designing streamlined RI/FSs. These RPMs will be a resource for their Regions, providing assistance in streamlining remedy selection at all future municipal landfill sites.

Questions should be addressed to Andrea McLaughlin at FTS 678-8365.